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not alluded to in the context. "Quite, or almost quite, impermeable" for "sehr schwer oder gar nicht permeabel" surely must be a typographic slip for "almost or quite impermeable." When JOST wrote "der im Wasser gelösten Moleküle und Ionen," why should it be translated, "of the molecules dissolved in water and of the ions," as though the ions were not dissolved in water? There are other slips of more serious nature. Thus, in describing the cohesion movements of the annulus of ferns and the anthers of seed-plants, to render "Füllwasser" by "imbibition water" makes the description inconsistent and unintelligible, for it is the water contained in the cell cavity, not the imbibed water of the walls, whose tension comes into play.

If these defects appear in a cursory examination one may suspect that a thorough comparison would reveal many others. Yet the total impression, without such a search, is quite the reverse, and it may be fairly said that on the whole the translation, though rather wordy, is good. The English may not be irreproachable, but it happily does not fall into the German idiom.

We note JOST's lame excuse for retaining assimilation instead of adopting photosynthesis, pleading bad examples and the lack of a correlative term to apply to "nitrogen assimilation." A little boldness, pardonable in a leader, would have set aside the examples of PFEFFER and WIESNER, and a little ingenuity would have devised a new term, if amide synthesis and proteid synthesis were not acceptable. A bit more boldness in the translator would have at least harmonized the typography of citations with the better style of the original, and not overmuch would have modernized it completely. Now it halts between the traditional and the modern, losing much of the modest advance the author had made.

In makeup the book follows the general style of the Clarendon Press classics. The thicker but lighter paper, the solid type and slightly larger page, make a bulkier book, actually larger by some 60,000 words, fall within the compass of 554 pages of text as against 682 in the original. The rough-surfaced paper makes impossible the proper printing of the delicate cuts of the German edition, the half-tones especially being mere smudges. The figures should have been remade for such paper. Yet we can almost forgive the blotchy cuts for the sake of the dull surface and the agreeable lightness of the book. But the price, as usual, goes away up—21 to 24 shillings as against about 15 marks—and imported copies at \$7.75 will be almost too dear for general students. Yet it is well to have it available in English even at the exorbitant price.—C. R. B.

The morphology of plants

DR. JOS. VELENOVSKÝ⁴ has added to the lengthening list of general textbooks on plant morphology. Every such work represents some characteristic point of view, and that of VELENOVSKÝ seems to be that of the older morphology tintured

⁴ VELENOVSKÝ, JOS., *Vergleichende Morphologie der Pflanzen*. Vols. I and II. pp. 731. pls. 5. figs. 455. Prag: Fr. Řivnáč. 1905 and 1907.

by a modicum of the new. In fact, the author seems to regard modern morphologists as perhaps too narrow in their vision to possess the proper perspective for a general text. As a result, the two volumes now published are distinctly not up to date from the standpoint of modern morphology.

The first volume (pp. 277), issued in 1905, is introduced by general discussions of questions that are not current in modern laboratories, however interesting they may have been during the domination of the Goethean morphology. The main part of the volume consists of "Die Morphologie der Kryptogamen." The illustrations are well selected and many of them are original. The ground has evidently been well traversed in the laboratory but not in recent literature, for the text gives a distinct impression of long isolation. Why do so many botanists fail to see the incongruity of such a series of names for coordinate groups as "A. Thallophyten," "B. Charophyta," "C. Moose," "D. Gefässkryptogamen"?

The second volume (pp. 454), issued in 1907, presents "Die Morphologie der Phanerogamen," in so far as the vegetative organs are concerned. The main divisions are "Die Keimpflanze," "Die Wurzel," "Das Blatt," "Die Achse," and "Die Trichome." The general attitude is indicated by the subdivisions under "Seedlings," which are as follows: seedlings of polycotyls, of monocotyls, of stemless plants, of acotylous plants.

The third volume is to contain the morphology of the "phanerogam flower" and a system of classification, besides a general index.

The work will undoubtedly prove a most interesting one for reference, especially for the younger generation of morphologists.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

North American Flora.—The first part of volume xxv has just appeared, being the fifth part published. It contains four of the sixteen families of Geraniales, the order with a synopsis of its families being presented by J. K. SMALL. The Geraniaceae, by L. T. HANKS and J. K. SMALL, contain four genera, a new genus *Robertiella* being founded on *Geranium Robertianum*. The species of *Geranium* number sixty-four, of which twenty-three are new, and *Erodium* and *Pelargonium* each contain six species. The Oxalidaceae, by J. K. SMALL, contain ten genera, *Hesperoxalis*, *Otoxalis*, and *Bolboxalis* being new and monotypic. The other genera are *Oxalis* (3 spp., 1 new), *Ionoxalis* (65 spp., 28 new), *Monoxalis* (2 spp., 1 new), *Lotoxalis* (11 spp., 1 new), *Xanthoxalis* (26 spp., 1 new), *Biophytum* (1 sp.), and *Averrhoa* (2 spp.). The Erythroxylaceae, by N. L. BRITTON, represented by the single genus *Erythroxylon*, contains twenty-eight species, one of which is new. The Linaceae, by J. K. SMALL, contain four genera, *Hesperolinon* being a new genus established on *Linum* § *Hesperolinon* Gray. The genera are *Linum* (5 spp.), *Cathartolinum* (48 spp., 10 new and all but one of the remainder transferred from *Linum* by SMALL), *Hesperolinon* (9 spp.), and *Reinwardtia* (1 sp.).—J. M. C.